

HARLAN A. TRAPP

A pioneer citizen of Dade County whose long residence here and whose intimate knowledge of events reveals much that is interesting as a contribution to the history of the community, is Harlan A. Trapp, of Coconut Grove. Mr. Trapp came to Dade County in 1886 and has been continuously identified with the community since that year. His father came here one year later, and the family has helped to make much of the unwritten history of that section.

Harlan A. Trapp was born at Pella, Iowa, March 4, 1869, and is a son of Caleb L. and Henrietta (Rhodes) Trapp, the former a native of the State of New York and the latter of Ohio. Caleb L. Trapp drove mules on the old Erie Canal, and went to Iowa after the Civil War, settling first at Mt. Pleasant and later at Pella. He was a merchant and brick mason. He came to Florida in 1887, settling near Coconut Grove. Here he built a house out of the native rock, which was the first stone house built in this section, excepting old Fort Dallas. He cut the stone, burned the lime and built the house after he was seventy years of age, as a practical demonstration of the possibilities of using the native stone for building purposes. The famous Trapp avocado pear, known to horticulturists the world over,

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owes its origin and name to the Trapp family. They planted the seed and cultivated the plant. Mrs. Henrietta Trapp, mother of Harlan A. Trapp, taught the first country school in Coconut Grove. Caleb L. Trapp and his wife continued to reside in Coconut Grove the rest of their lives, he dying in 1894 and she in 1900.

Harlan A. Trapp was reared in Pella, Iowa, and acquired a public school education there and at Atlantic, Iowa, where he went when fifteen years of age. He came to Florida in November, 1886, when he was eighteen years of age, locating at Coconut Grove, where he has since continued to reside. When he became of age he took up a homestead below Coconut Grove and conducted a small starch mill of his own, starch making being the principal method of making money in those early days. Later he engaged in the general contracting and building business, which he successfully followed for a number of years. He constructed a number of the important buildings of Miami, including the Miami Bank & Trust Company building, the Townley building, the Dr. Skaggs building and the Havlin building, the latter being the first reinforced concrete building put up in Miami. He also built the Four-way Lodge for W. J. Matheson, as well as other important properties. Mr. Trapp's home near Coconut Grove is situated on Biscayne Bay and is a valuable estate of ten acres.

Mr. Trapp married August 13, 1895, Minnie B. Hobart, a native of Iowa, in which State they were married. Mrs. Trapp is prominent in club life and social circles of Coconut Grove and Miami, being a member of the Audubon Club, the Miami Woman's Club and the Miami Musical Club.